YUKON FOREST STRATEGY

A vision for Yukon's forests

October 1998

This document presents the strategy of the Government of the Yukon for improved forest management in the Yukon. It provides a new approach to manage the Yukon's forests. The Yukon Forest Strategy was produced by the Yukon government's Yukon Forest Commission in October 1998.

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CONTENTS

Why do we need a forest strategy? 1

Our vision 3

Cooperative forest management 5

The forest environment 7

Forest planning for sustainable use 11

The forest economy 19

Immediate actions 24

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to federal and First Nations governments, the Yukon Forest Advisory Committee, and the hundreds of people who attended workshops and open houses and provided comments contributing to the strength of the Yukon Forest Strategy.

GLOSSARY

Adaptive management …making management changes, adapting as we review the impact of our actions in the forest.

Allocation …the process used to grant portions of the allowable harvest to forest companies, commercial enterprises and individuals.

Ecosystem management …managing human activities to conserve the elements that make up ecosystems and keep natural processes intact.

Sustainable forest management …the management of our actions on the land in a way that respects and conserves the ability of the forest to grow and renew itself, and the diversity of life forms that rely upon the forest, over the long term.

Tenure …the holding of forest resource property, including the right to harvest, over a period of time.

Timber supply analysis …an assessment of future timber supplies over long planning horizons (more than 200 years) by using different management assumptions identified in planning processes.

WHY DO WE NEED A FOREST STRATEGY?

Our relationship with the forest is changing. Our limited understanding of the boreal forest shows that we know only parts of nature's puzzle and that we should act cautiously. Yet, we use the forest to sustain economic activity and livelihoods and to provide opportunity. Forests must be treated responsibly as we weigh what we know along with what we want to do.

Are we making appropriate and responsible management decisions? Competing forest-land issues, involving trappers, hunters and traditional users of the forest, wilderness tourism operators, recreationalists, and timber harvesters require a more active, and cooperative approach to forest management.

The public asked, and governments responded, with the Yukon Forest Strategy process to ensure a sustainable future for our forests. This new vision is set out as forest management is going through rapid transition, new Settlement Agreements, the transfer of federal forest resources to the Yukon government, and program and service transfers to First Nations. These changes are moving forest decisions closer to Yukon people and Yukon communities. This strategy brings forest management closer to home.

The Yukon Forest Strategy describes government policy and plans to manage forest resources through a vision, goals, and actions. It is short and to the point and leaves no doubt as to what our challenges are, and where we need to go to improve forest management in the Yukon.

This strategy contains a vision for the future — a vision of what forests should look like, with key principles to guide our decisions about how to protect and use forest resources. It provides an important guide for developing forest legislation.

From the vision, the Yukon Forest Strategy establishes four goals that provide Yukon-wide, strategic directions for the key aspects of forest management. A companion document, "Yukon Forest Strategy Planning Framework," provides a more detailed account of the principles and the rationale behind the strategy's goals and actions.

Forest strategy goals

The four goals of the Yukon Forestry Strategy are to:

- build cooperative forest management approaches;
- protect the health of Yukon forests;
- plan for an integrated and balanced approach to forest use; and
- build a resilient and diverse forest economy.

The Yukon Forest Strategy also provides a series of key objectives to guide forest management, and it identifies actions to help us achieve our aims.

Finally, the strategy contains immediate actions to help move towards sustainable forest management in the short term.

SUSTAINABLE FOREST USE

Like a three-legged stool, forest plans must be firmly based on all three pillars of sustainability. If a plan fails to meet the test of ecological sustainability, or social acceptability, or economic viability, it will fail. It is that simple. So, what are these tests?

First, the rectangle shows the forest actions that maintain the ecological health of the forest.

Second, the dark oval shows the range of forest actions that are acceptable to Yukon people. This requires a good understanding and many discussions about the ways that people view, use and value forests.

Third, the light oval shows forest activities that are economically viable.

Finally, the overlapping area with the star shows possible management actions that meet all three tests: ecological sustainability, social acceptability and economic viability.

OUR VISION

The greatest challenge in "managing" the forest is determining what we are managing for. Our knowledge of Yukon forests is changing as we understand more about their unique features and sensitivities and what they contribute to our environment. Our values are changing to reflect our diverse population and our changing needs from the forest.

This new vision guides the implementation of the goals, objectives and actions of the strategy. The vision will also guide future policies, legislation and actions for those who live and work in the forest, enjoy the forest, or simply value it in its own right as an essential part of our environment.

Our vision is for a fully functioning forest ecosystem that benefits all living things, while providing environmental, economic, social and cultural benefits for present and future generations.

- Our use and management of the forest must respect the relationship between all living things and their environment.
- Our management of Yukon forests will consider the full range of interests and uses of present and future generations.
- Caution will be exercised when the consequences of actions in the forest are uncertain.
- Users of the forest — individuals, companies and governments — will use the forest in a respectful and publicly responsible manner.
- Forest management will undertake research and monitoring of forest activities. It will utilise the best available information — scientific, local and traditional knowledge — and consider the experience of past practices.
- All Yukoners will have the opportunity to contribute in meaningful ways to decisions that are important. Decisions affecting the forest will consider the entire spectrum of interests in a fair and open manner.

SOME YUKON FIRST NATIONS PERSPECTIVES

From papers prepared for the First Nations Forestry Program, October 1998

While each Yukon First Nation is unique, First Nations members collectively developed a set of values and beliefs:

- The forest is home to most Yukon First Nations. Healthy forests are critical to Yukon First Nations' continued well-being.
- Yukon First Nations view themselves as part of the land (and the forest), where trees are seen like humans. Respect for the forest, and thus yourself, is essential in all activities that touch the forest.
- Management and use of the forest must be based on maintaining the health of the forest as a whole.
- Yukon First Nations understand that forests untouched by humans can look after themselves. Forest management is not for the forest, but rather for people's use of the forest.
- The forest environment requires that all governments approach management within a cooperative and integrated framework, while respecting their respective and distinct authorities and jurisdictions.
- Continued healthy forests will be achieved by a management approach that reflects nature's patterns.
- Collective wisdom, which blends traditional and scientific knowledge and experience, will guide all forest management and use.
- Local people should have a primary role in forest management in the region where they live, and local economies should receive maximum benefit from the use of their neighbouring forests.
- No one fully understands the forest, so the forest management system must be designed to evolve as experience and understanding grow over time.
- The cultural, spiritual, social, and economic well being of Yukon First Nations is a necessary part of forest ecosystem health, and their social and cultural needs should be included in land use and resource management.

COOPERATIVE FOREST MANAGEMENT

GOAL

Build cooperative forest management approaches

No one government can manage the forest alone. Forest ecosystems require cooperative research and planning efforts to ensure that the health of the forest is maintained. The capacity of governments, industry and communities to develop plans for forest management is limited and will benefit from increased coordination of efforts and sharing of information. The cost of managing the forest is high. The greater the cooperation, the more effort will be directed to forest research and planning for the betterment of forest health and forest users.

Managing the Yukon forest requires cooperation between different orders of government. It also requires a partnership between governments and boards and committees, industry and the public. Cooperative forest management is a process of working together to carry out individual and collective responsibilities to effectively manage forest resources. Cooperative forest management is about providing clear directions on forest research, planning and use.

Many institutions concerned with resource management have been created or altered with the legislation of First Nations Final Agreements. Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Yukon Land Use Planning Council represent the institutional crossroads between many different planning processes. These new organizations extend cooperation to new levels and provide local residents with a strong voice in fish and wildlife management, and forest planning.

There are many people and users of the forest who provide important contributions and perspectives. Active forest research communities, Elders, experienced forest users and loggers can all work with governments and boards and committees to provide perspectives and advice on forest research, planning and use.

PRINCIPLES

These principles address ways for governments to create effective partnerships to manage Yukon forests.

- Relationships between governments will be on a fair, equitable and respectful basis, recognizing the rights and responsibilities outlined in First Nations Final Agreements.
- Forest resource management will be integrated between settlement and non-settlement lands between governments and with Renewable Resources Councils.
- Governments, recognizing their areas of jurisdiction, will build cooperative and integrated frameworks for forest research, planning and use.
- Under First Nations Final Agreements, governments have specific obligations to consult one another on a variety of matters related to forest management, and adequate time must be allowed for review and comment on management initiatives and strategies.
- Information, knowledge, and experience will be shared between governments and with communities, forest users and Renewable Resources Councils.
- Human and financial resources will be shared between governments, where practical to do so, to improve forest management.

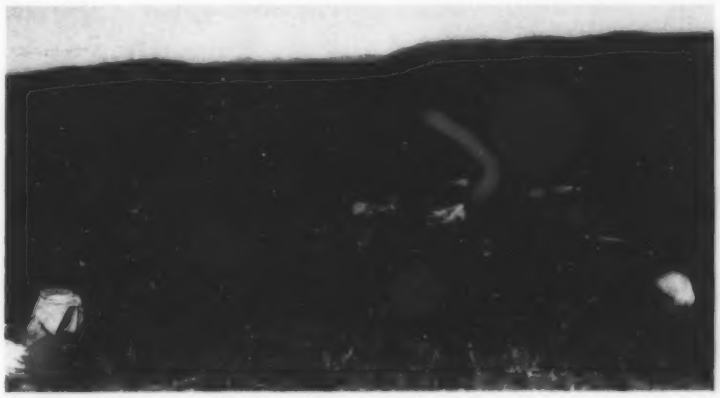
LEGISLATION

Winter 1998-1999 will see a few revisions to **federal** timber regulations to give more flexibility to manage forests within the limitations of the federal *Lands Act*.

After devolution, a *Yukon Forest Act* for public lands, enacted by the **Yukon** Legislature, will be built from this forest strategy and First Nations Final Agreements.

Yukon First Nations with *Final Agreements* and *Self-Government Agreements* have responsibility for the management and use of forest resources on their settlement lands.

Forest projects will be reviewed through future *Development Assessment* legislation for **federal, Yukon** and **First Nations** lands. Until then, the *Canadian Environmental Act* applies to federal lands.



THE FOREST ENVIRONMENT

GOAL

Protect the health of Yukon forests

Conservation and the sustainable use of forest resources are fundamental principles of forest management in the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement. Maintaining functioning ecosystems is the key to sustainable forest practices; ecosystem management objectives are stressed before development objectives.

Maintaining the integrity and productivity of forest ecosystems involves sustaining ecological structures, patterns, processes and biological diversity. The ecological processes of forests perform functions essential to life on the planet. They help regulate the chemical balance of soil, air, and water. They contribute to climate stability, recycle nutrients, break down pollutants, and are vital to watershed protection, soil formation, carbon storage, and the supply of food and habitat for wildlife. The products of forest growth may be harvested on a sustainable basis as long as the magnitude and manner of those harvests are within the system's capacity to renew and sustain itself over a long time.

In ecosystem management, we learn about the forests through research, observation, experience — and using traditional and scientific knowledge. It is a way of managing forests that allows us to make informed decisions that are based on our evolving understanding of how ecosystems work and are affected by our activities.

[redacted]

Maintain or restore the health of Yukon forest ecosystems focusing on ecological integrity, biological diversity, and long-term forest productivity.

[redacted]

use adaptive management approach

Practice adaptive ecosystem management to guide human activities in forest ecosystems.

develop intergovernmental approach

Develop collaborative intergovernmental approaches to applying ecosystem management at the ecoregion, watershed, sub-watershed and site levels.

change specific forest practices

Implement changes in forest practices to:

- protect the quality of the soil, air and water;
- reflect the unique character and natural disturbance processes and patterns that underlie forest ecology;
- identify ecologically significant areas for special protection and management; and
- eliminate or reduce adverse impacts.

undertake restoration activities

Undertake ecological restoration activities — particularly for biodiversity and natural disturbance regimes — in forests where fires have been suppressed for decades, where forest soils are being eroded and degraded, and where reforestation activities have never been undertaken.

manage forest renewal

Through the Elijah Smith Forest Renewal Program, focus forest renewal on:

- maintaining the biodiversity and the natural range of ecosystem processes;
- funding basic silviculture activities on all lands harvested since the inception of the program;
- research practices that minimise the need for replanting conifers;
- covering costs associated with basic silviculture necessary to maintain fully functioning forest ecosystems; and
- ensuring that governments are publicly accountable for the program's management.

[redacted]

Base management and planning decisions on the best available scientific, local, and traditional knowledge and experience.

[redacted]

share information

Share information on forest ecology and resource conditions between governments, Yukon communities, industry, non-government organizations and universities.

set up a Yukon Boreal Forest Network

Work with forest partners to develop a collaborative Yukon Boreal Forest Network that:

- shares and expands the collective knowledge of Yukon forests;
- builds linkages with northern scientists, researchers, and providers of traditional knowledge;
- builds links to the National Sustainable Forest Management Network;
- contributes to the Yukon State of the Environment Report;
- works to find cost-effective research partnerships to address ecosystem management challenges; and
- identifies and describes forest ecological processes.

ASPENS AS FIREBREAKS

Research in the Northwest Territories shows that forest fires are slowed better by wide stands of deciduous trees than by bulldozed firebreaks of bare ground. The cooler temperatures, higher humidity, and moisture in the leaves and soil have a similar effect to one-quarter inch of rain.

Managing forests to keep them as stands of aspen, birch or poplar requires periodic removal of young spruce. Such management provides hardwoods for fuel and cabinet-making and ensures a home for many songbirds and grouse, and a bright forest for winter sports.

[redacted]

Develop a practical environmental monitoring system that tracks changes to forest health.

[redacted]

assess the Yukon's progress against the Canadian Criteria and Indicators Framework

Report on the Yukon's progress towards sustainable forest management through the Canadian Criteria and Indicators Framework in 2000. Six main criteria have been identified for measurement:

- conservation of biological diversity;
- maintenance and enhancement of forest ecosystem condition and productivity;
- conservation of soil and water resources;
- forest ecosystem contributions to global ecological cycles;
- multiple benefits of forests to society; and
- acceptance of society's responsibility for sustainable development.

track changes in forests

Develop ecosystem monitoring initiatives to track changes in forest ecosystems and measure overall progress toward Yukon forest management goals and objectives.

coordinate research and monitoring commitments

Coordinate research and monitoring commitments of the National Forest Strategy, the National Biodiversity Strategy, the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy, the Yukon Conservation Strategy, and the International Climate Change Accord.

develop monitoring systems

Design monitoring systems to include local organizations and governments in cost-effective ways to build local knowledge and capacity.

VEGETATION GRADIENT

White spruce trees generally grow best on fine-textured moist soils along creeks, rivers and lakes. As you walk up from the river, white spruce becomes scarcer and the soils become more coarse and well-drained. Lodgepole pine, a tree adapted to dry soil, becomes the dominant tree species on these upland sites.

FOREST PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABLE USE

Plan for an integrated and balanced approach to forest use

Forest management is a process of deciding on directions and goals that will guide how forests in an area will be used and protected in the short- and long-term.

Within the framework set by the First Nations Final Agreements, the Yukon Forest Strategy and other planning processes, government will engage communities and individuals in the development of forest management plans that are practical, integrated across planning boundaries, and responsive to changing circumstances and information. These plans will strive to consider forest values in ways that sustain ecosystems, and the natural diversity and productivity of Yukon forests. Priorities for forest values differ from one region to another and will continue to shift over time. Change in ecological or economic conditions, or social attitudes, will lead to the refinement of forest management plans and forestry practices.

Successful planning will result in fewer conflicts in the forest between resource users. It will produce community level solutions to issues identified in the process. Success will also depend on the degree to which governments deliver on commitments to enable the planning processes at a regional level and provide access to the scientific and traditional knowledge needed to make informed decisions.

OBJECTIVE

Develop forest management plans in priority forest use areas.

Settlement Agreements stipulate that forest planning priorities are to be established for crown land in consultation with First Nations.

ACTIONS

assess planning priorities

Establish planning priorities according to the following criteria:

- the community's desire to complete a forest management plan;
- the level of development pressures within a particular area;
- the status of land claims or the desire of affected First Nations to have a plan completed;
- the amount of information which may be available for the planning process; and
- the opportunity to coordinate wildlife, land use, heritage, protected areas or other planning processes.

NATURAL DISTURBANCE

Looking from above, it is easy to see patterns in a forest. Some patches are ragged edged and contain young forests from old forest fires. Other patches are smaller stands of younger trees growing in spaces where old trees blew over. Just as disturbances in valley-bottom forests vary from upland forests in a region, so do patterns in natural disturbances vary between regions.

Using these natural patterns to guide forest use places our footprint on the forest in a similar manner as nature's and helps lessen the effects of our actions.

[redacted]

Coordinate planning initiatives to implement a phased approach to forest planning.

[redacted]

plan in stages

Within the guidelines set by Settlement Agreements, forest management plans will be developed in stages that achieve:

- public education and information exchange, and agreement on the broad guidelines to apply the principles of ecosystem management;
- interim agreements between governments, and with Renewable Resources Councils based on community consultation, on the locations of timber harvest areas, harvest levels and harvest practices. These agreements will guide all forestry decision-making until a final decision can be made based on the information produced by a full assessment and planning process; and
- a stage, with the community, to identify forest-related issues and to coordinate forest-related management activities. This stage will coordinate the efforts of governments, Renewable Resources Councils, land use and related planning processes, and interested parties in research and management activities.

develop specific guidelines

Further stages will involve the development of more specific guidelines in key timber harvest areas. Guidelines will prescribe management strategies for fire and disease, harvest methods, the recognition and protection of non-economic values, access to forest resources, and resolving future problems.

undertake community consultation

In addition to the guidelines set by Settlement Agreements, governments will undertake consultations with affected communities and public interests at each stage of the planning process with the advice of Renewable Resources Councils.

[redacted]

Provide clear direction on forest planning.

[redacted]

develop terms of reference

Governments, within their jurisdictions, will provide direction to teams preparing each forest management plan through the use of a terms of reference that:

- set out the key principles to follow in the development of a plan;
- outline what governments expect the planning team to accomplish;
- establish clear time-frames for the completion of planning stages that dovetail, where possible, into the time frames set for other land and resource planning initiatives in the region;
- set the geographic boundaries of the plan (within the context of natural ecosystems and First Nations traditional territories);
- ensure that learning opportunities are provided;
- ensure the availability of scientific and traditional knowledge;
- define relationships between governments and between governments and advisory bodies;
- seek recommendations based on a consensus reached among respective governments, communities and forest users;
- establish expectations on consultation;
- clarify funding obligations; and
- define the process for governments to review, approve and implement the plan.

provide for forest resource management plans

Provide for forest resource management plans that can provide guidelines on:

- pest and disease control;
- standards for the use of forest resources;
- terms, conditions and areas for the harvesting of forest resources;
- forest fire management;
- implementing plans on a watershed basis;
- inventories of forest resources and key environmental values;
- estimating the supply of timber and other forest resources;
- determining annual harvest levels that make allowances for natural disturbances;
- identifying the lands available for timber harvesting and for other forest uses; and
- establishing the guidelines and options for roads and trails used to access forest resources.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Landscape features important for the conservation and maintenance of cultures include certain cabins and camps, trails, and sites where particular activities or events occurred. Community mapping projects have shown a remarkable congruence in the features that people would like to see set aside from certain activities when people are asked to map places that are sacred to their families.

[redacted]

Establish agreements related to fire management, consistent with First Nations Final Agreements.

[redacted]

develop fire management agreements

Agreements on fire suppression should be formed between all governments involved in forest management to:

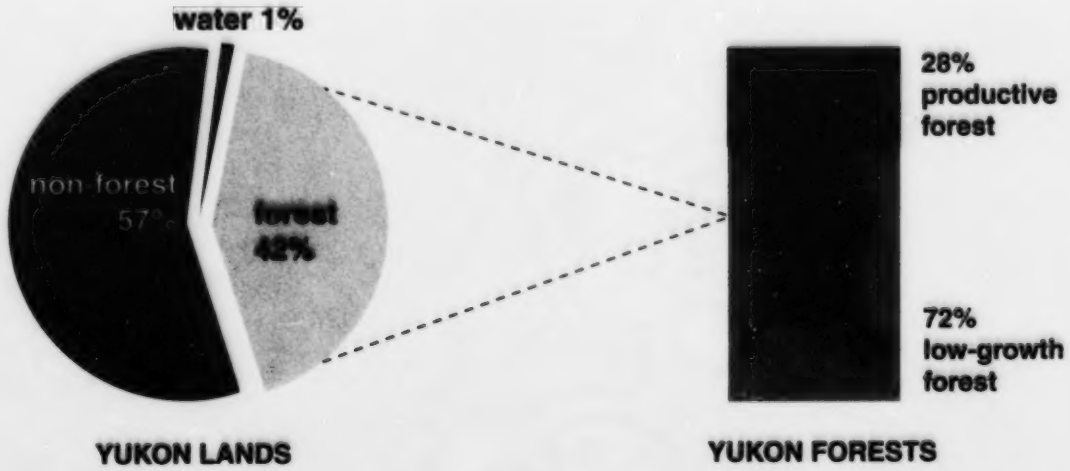
- reduce the risk of forest fire to life, property, priority protection areas and communities;
- reduce the risk of fires in communities spreading to adjacent forests; and
- establish fire protection priorities and coordinate fire suppression planning with other emergency planning.

develop fire suppression priorities

Link geographic priorities for fire suppression to ecosystem management objectives at sub-watershed and ecoregion levels. Consider ecological values, safety (life and property), economic and other resource values, and cultural values.

YUKON FOREST LANDS

The total area of the Yukon is 48 million hectares, of which 42% is forested. Slightly more than a quarter of the forested land is considered "productive," that is, biologically capable of producing economical timber harvests within a reasonable time period.



OBJECTIVE

Use traditional and scientific knowledge to guide planning.

ACTIONS

increase public understanding of forests

Governments will work to increase public understanding of both traditional and scientific knowledge related to forest lands by:

- publishing summaries of interviews with First Nations Elders and other people with traditional knowledge;
- publishing easily understood summaries of technical reports and analysis;
- including information on traditional and scientific knowledge in briefings to forest management planning teams and other bodies involved in planning; and
- using traditional and scientific knowledge in forest training and in opportunities to build local resource capacity.

MEDICINAL PLANTS

Locations where medicinal plants grow and have been traditionally collected are carefully shared within local communities. Some plants that reduce the pain of headaches may be widespread, but others, such as plants that aid childbirth, may be more restricted to particular sites or forests of particular type or age.

OBJECTIVE

Provide opportunities for youth, forest users and members of planning teams to become informed about forest management choices.

ACTIONS

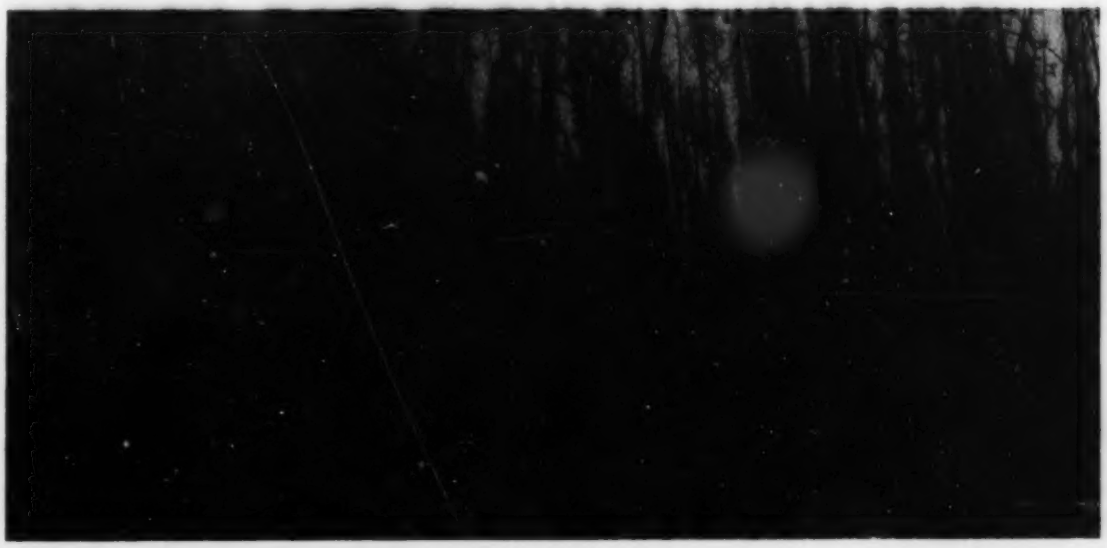
provide information on impacts of forest activities	Provide information on the impact on the forest of each user's activities.
contribute to State of the Environment reports	Provide information on the health of Yukon forests in State of the Environment Reports.
review options for a model forest	Review options for a Yukon model or community forest.

FOREST STRUCTURE

The "shintangle" you push through, the dead trees you step over, and the old oxbows you call moose from, all give the forest its structure. This structure is a very significant part of how the forest functions as a home to plants, animals, fungi, insects — all life forms. Even if the mix of tree species and tree ages stays the same, a change in structure can make a big difference in whether the forest can be a home to some species.

Elders and scientists tell us that decades of suppressing forest fires in some areas have led to forests with unnatural structure. This structure is fairly uniform and dense, with dead branches and trees and few deciduous trees. They also tell us that the moose calves are protected from bears and wolves by the structure that comes from the downed trees and dense brush.

When our management of forests is ecosystem-based, we pay attention to the structure of the forest landscape, particularly how it changes over time. One example of this is leaving live and dead trees so that woodpeckers will have snags to nest in as the forest grows.



THE FOREST ECONOMY

GOAL

Build a resilient and diverse forest economy

Subsistence forest use and business activities ranging from timber harvesting to mushroom picking, wood processing to wilderness recreation, and ecotourism to hunting, fishing, trapping and outfitting form the Yukon forest economy. The importance of all these activities can be expressed in economic terms and in terms of their social or cultural importance to people and communities — today and in the future.

People see opportunities in the forest that can produce economic prosperity for their families and communities. Some of these opportunities are related to timber harvesting and the development of valued-added wood processing operations. There are international markets for wild mushrooms, berries and other botanical forest products. There are opportunities to supply forest-based services such as reforestation and the restoration of degraded habitats. There are also world markets for ecotourism activities in the Yukon's wilderness.

In the case of the timber industry, the most beneficial timber industry activities have been described by many Yukoners as efficient small-scale harvesting and milling operations, and value-added wood processing and manufacturing operations. Making these timber harvesting and wood processing industries more economically viable requires more certainty and fairness, as well as clear processes for planning, regulation change, permitting and decision-making.

OBJECTIVE

Build a foundation for forest resource development that reflects local community needs, aspirations and values.

ACTIONS

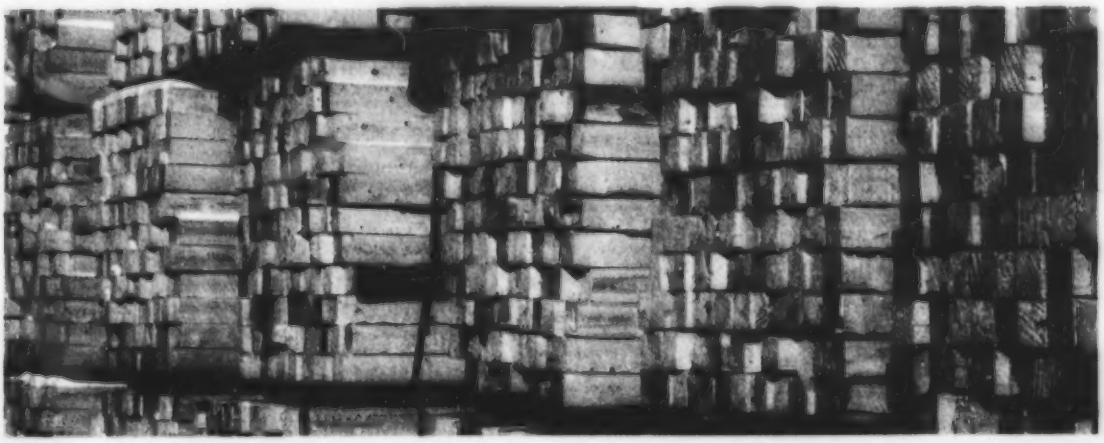
develop inventory and supply analysis	Develop forest inventories and timber supply analyses to support forest resource planning and allocation on a long-term basis.
establish sustainable harvest levels	Establish sustainable harvest levels for each forest management unit.
develop community-based tenure models	Develop innovative, community-based forest tenure models to promote community involvement, education and research.
explore collective approaches	Explore mechanisms like marketing groups, log markets and associations to help communities and industry work collectively to seize opportunities.
ensure broad range of economic activities	Integrate forest resource-based industries with subsistence activities and other forest uses to allow a broad range of activities in our sustainable forest economy.

VALUE ADDED

The benefits gained from the use of forest resources — jobs, income and community growth — come when we make products out of the resources we harvest locally.

There are many opportunities to build local initiatives by adding value, whether it be turning berries into jam, fine-grained pine into picture frames, logs into lumber or the making of local crafts. Each time we add a step, we add value — it's as simple as that.

The Yukon Forest Strategy outlines actions to work with forest harvesters to focus on local manufacturing and export our forest products.



OBJECTIVE

Enhance current local timber harvesting and processing capacity.

ACTIONS

establish rules for forest tenures

Provide for a range of forest tenures that includes:

- annual small scale permits to provide for the needs of small-scale operations and producers of value-added products;
- multi-year tenures up to five years to provide increased certainty for industry in the absence of forest management plans;
- long-term tenures for regions with completed forest management plans and final agreements with First Nations;
- long-term area-based tenures in suitable areas for wood-lot style operations; and
- community tenure and tenures for other forms of forest use, such as berry harvesting or recreation.

provide certainty in allocation of forest resources

Provide more certainty in the allocation of forest resources by:

- preparing timber development opportunities for public offering, outlining the terms for forest development rights;
- providing for the long-term availability of timber;
- making application procedures and approval timelines more transparent; and
- designing regulations and fee structures to better reflect the needs and capacities of smaller operators.

make allocation decisions

Make allocation decisions based on a range of criteria including:

- value-added use of forest resources;
- log conversion and utilization rate (maximizing use of the whole tree);
- ability to hire and train local people;
- ability to meet community needs and provide local benefits;
- commitment to supply timber to a Yukon mill; and
- demonstrated ability to meet ecosystem-based management harvesting practices.

OBJECTIVE

Work in partnership to develop new and expanded markets which enhance the value of the Yukon's forest economy.

ACTIONS

develop local market opportunities

Develop local market opportunities for forest products, such as:

- Yukon wood for Yukon construction;
- wood residue in industrial heating; and
- demonstration projects that display Yukon forest products.

explore value-added product opportunities

Explore value-added product opportunities for Yukon forest products by:

- reviewing Yukon timber qualities to determine the highest and best use of the resource;
- determining opportunities for primary and secondary forest products, including berries and mushrooms;
- undertaking familiarisation tours with Yukon industry operators to show product development opportunities; and
- using Yukon government purchasing policies to promote locally manufactured wood products.

develop comprehensive marketing plan

Develop a comprehensive marketing plan for export sales that:

- builds links into key markets such as Alaska and the western United States and Canada; and
- undertakes forest sector trade missions to key market areas.

certify sustainable forest management practices

Develop forest product standards that assist market development by:

- establishing a lumber grading and inspection system that meets national and international standards for export markets; and
- seeking certification and recognition of the Yukon's future sustainable forest management practices as a market opportunity.

OBJECTIVE

Develop royalty systems that provide a fair return for the use of forest resources, while recognising the needs of forest-based businesses to remain competitive.

ACTIONS

develop resource royalties	Develop resource royalties that consider environmental and economic value.
provide royalty and fee incentives	Provide royalty and fee incentives to increase value-added use of forest resources.
apply stumpage rates	Apply stumpage rates that reflect market demand (including competitive bidding in some settings) to promote and assist industry development.
provide for competitive timber sales	Provide for competitive timber sales as a test to ensure fair returns on forest resources and encourage efficient timber processing.

OBJECTIVE

Develop training and other opportunities to build local capacity and to promote the sustainable use of forest resources.

ACTIONS

support trust fund	Continue to support the Forestry Training Trust Fund to enable Yukon people to participate in forest management opportunities.
share information	Share information between governments and forest-based businesses to capitalize on emerging issues and opportunities, and changing technologies.
develop partnerships	Pursue partnerships with key national and provincial organizations for research and technical liaisons. Areas to pursue include: • strengthening industry infrastructure; • technology and market research support; • value-added industry associations and markets; • training support and access to programming; • technology transfer programming; and • business development in financing, manufacturing, and research.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS

All governments have a responsibility to the Yukon public, and to the forests, to ensure we protect our land for future generations and maximise benefits for Yukon people. We have an ever evolving challenge to adapt our management approach in the forest. The following actions highlight the immediate changes being undertaken as we move towards a sustainable future for our forests.

GOAL

Build cooperative forest management approaches

- Facilitate collaborative research priorities and adaptive management projects with a Yukon Boreal Forest Network of scientists and forest practitioners.
- Review options for establishing a community forest to promote learning and provide a centre for forest research.
- Transfer the federal responsibility for forest resources to the Yukon and draft new forest legislation to enable the Yukon government to develop a sustainable forest management framework that benefits Yukon people.

GOAL

Protect the health of Yukon forests

- Practice adaptive ecosystem management in forest management and decision-making.
- Implement changes to forest practices to reflect natural forest patterns while protecting soil, air and water quality.

GOAL

Plan for an integrated and balanced approach to forest use

- Advance forest management planning in priority areas to allow for longer term forest decision making.
- Review and finalise the timber supply analysis for the southern Yukon.
- Develop harvest planning areas and harvest level agreements in Yukon forest regions until forest management plans are completed.

GOAL

Build a resilient and diverse Yukon forest economy

- Use new tenures and royalty incentives to support the growth of value-added timber processing.
- Make forest resource allocations more certain and transparent by preparing timber development opportunities for public offering, making decisions based on a range of criteria which include priorities for value-added use of the resource and community benefits.
- Create markets for Yukon forest products in key market regions through export trade missions, product familiarization tours and industry liaison.